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Remarks

Claim Status

Claims 1 through 3 and 5 through 25 are pending in the application.

Applicant acknowledges with gratitude that Claims 21 through 24 are allowed. Accordingly, Claim 21 has been amended into independent form to advance prosecution of the case.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 through 10 and 25 have been amended to depend directly from allowed Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 through 10, 25 and claims dependent therefrom (i.e. Claims 12 through 16) are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 11 and 17 through 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of continuing applications thereon.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 112

Claim 11 stands rejected as being indefinite. Claim 11 has been cancelled solely to advance prosecution of the case and without addressing the merits of the rejection. Applicants thus respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 10, 20 and 25 stand rejected over Ueda et al.

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Claims 1, 2, 6, 8 through 10, 12 through 20 and 25 stand rejected over Ghanl in view of Ueda.

Solely to advance prosecution of the case and without further addressing the merits of the outstanding rejection, Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 through 10, 12 through 16 and 25 have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from allowed Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding rejection has been obviated.

Applicants respectfully note, however, that they expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter removed from the aforementioned claims within continuing applications.


Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a significant and important contribution to the art, which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the art. It is believed that all of pending Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 through 10, 12 through 16 and 21 through 25 are now in condition for immediate allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned if any questions remain to expedite examination of this application.

It is not believed that fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, the fees are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2193.

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Respectfully submitted,

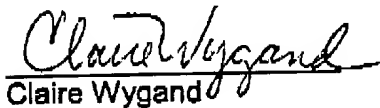


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(See attached Limited Recognition Form)

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to facsimile number
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Claire Wygand